(LCN Connections Issue 8 – August 2013)

PAUL'S ELIXIR

by Frank DeMarco

Paul Rademacher is doing it again. He started life as a carpenter; had a near-death experience that made him into a Presbyterian minister; tended a parish for 15 frustrating years; became a TMI trainer; became executive director for four years after Laurie Monroe's death; and settled down to enjoy a long slow glide toward retirement and old age. Or so he thought. But his quest keeps moving him along. On the day before Independence Day, not by coincidence, he published his first entry in his new blog, *Lucid Greening*.

His first blog entry "The Self-Evident Elixir," sketches a critical insight that applies to everyone born into this dying culture of ours.

The Declaration of Independence's famous statement, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," contains, as Paul points out, the assumption that there is no use trying to get the approval of an external authority for something beyond their experience.

"We are in a similar position right now. We live with a worldview that is woefully incomplete: it is the assumption that only the material world is real and the five senses are the only legitimate means of perception.

I call it the `physicality assumption' and it dominates our science, our educational system, and our business. But many of us know that the physicality assumption is inaccurate. This is self-evident to us because we have experienced something more – and that `more' shatters the old world-view. We can debate endlessly with the powers that be and hope that someday things will change. But there comes a time to transcend the debate and make a simple, powerful, statement: `We hold these truths to be self-evident: we are more than physical bodies and life

is more than material existence alone.' That declaration implies a decision to live by a very different value system, regardless of the consequences."

Heady stuff. What's more, he ties our experiences to the hero's journey that Joseph Campbell wrote and spoke about. The hero is taken beyond normal life, and is tested, and receives assistance – and returns to his community with a gift. It isn't enough to survive. Individuation journeys are completed by returning to the community with a gift, and that gift is what you learned on the journey.

Or, as Paul puts it, "This connection to the transcendent has been virtually obliterated in our society. And it will remain that way until, we who know something different, are willing to cut through the debate and stop waiting for science, industry or education to validate what we already know.

As to how we do that – well, that's the point of his blog and his new work. I think he has just jumped with both feet into yet another life.